

KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCILAnnual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1944.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In view of the present circumstances and the Ministry of Health Circular dated 25/10/38, I append herewith abbreviated statistics for the year 1944.

General Statistics.

Area in Acres.	2,837
Registrar General's Estimated Population.	8,388
Number of Inhabited Houses.	2,440
Rateable Value.	£68,149
Product of One Penny Rate.	£261

The population has decreased by 108 in 1944.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births. Legitimate, 96 Males. 93 Females. Total 189)
 Illegitimate, 8 Males. 11 Females. Total 19)
 Birth Rate per 1,000 Population. 24.79

Still Births. Legitimate, 6 Males. 1 Female. Total 7
 Illegitimate, 0 Males. 1 Female. Total 1
 Rate per 1,000 live and still births 37.03

Deaths. All causes, 53 Males. 53 Females. Total 106
 Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages).	16
Measles "	-
Whooping Cough"	-
Diarrhoea (Under 2 yrs)	3
Syphilitis	2
Heart Disease	27

Death Rate per 1,000 Population. 12.64

The Birth Rate in the Knottingley Urban District is 24.79 against 18.01 for England and Wales. The Death Rate from all causes is 12.79 against 11.60 for England and Wales, so that both these figures compare favourably.

The Infantile Death Rate for the Country is 50.8, Knottingley 37.03 (last year 52.63)

The principal causes of death were heart diseases, 27 cases, there were three deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years).

Cancer - all forms, 16. Bronchitis - 7. Pneumonia - 5.

<u>Infectious Diseases.</u>	Number Notified	Removed to Hospital	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	25	25	-
Whooping Cough.	28	-	-
Diphtheria.	19	18	2
Erysipelas.	2	-	-
Measles.	85	-	-
Pneumonia.	28	-	5
Puerperal Fever or Pyrexia	1	-	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	14	-	6
" " Non "	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	2	-

During the year 1944 big efforts were again made to affect the Immunization of all School Children and children under school age. Splendid help was given by the teaching staff instilling the necessity of the school children being immunized, and the Urban Council also gave me good help.

The estimated number of children in the Knottingley Urban District between the ages of nought and four is 838. The added number during 1944 immunized in this age group is 160 bring the percentage to 47.5. The added number between 4 and 15 is 71 bringing the percentage immunized to 91.16.

SCABIES.

Arrangements have been made with the Pontefract Isolation Hospital to treat women and children. This was carried out with success and reducing the number of cases to be notified. Notification of Scabies is not compulsory, but good co-operation is carried on between the Doctor practicing in the area, and myself.

TUBERCULOSIS AND SYPHILIS.

These are dealt with directly from the West Riding County Council also the care of premature infants and illegitimate children.

The Sanitary conditions and circumstances are dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. J. Laverick in Form "C". There are no special matters calling for comment, except the above paragraphs on Immunization and Scabies.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. KENNELLY, M.O.H.

KNOTTINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report for the year, 1944.

To Dr. J. Kehelly,
Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,

This is the fifth war time annual report and as the war conditions are much more hopeful and an early victory in the Far East is now looked on with confidence, it may be this will be the last report in war time.

Local authorities are now therefore thinking of the post war years and planning for an early start to building houses and the improvements in all their services which have been so neglected during the five years through lack of labour and essential materials. We all know that progress will be slow in the turn over to peace time conditions as building materials and labour will not be made easily available for some time to come.

All local authorities in the County are therefore, preparing housing estate plans, so that as little delay as possible need take place before houses are commenced and built to replace bombed houses and to house returned soldiers and their families.

My Council have purchased 14 acres of land in Spawd Bone Lane to take 140 to 150 houses and although this land has been let temporarily for cropping, it can be taken over immediately for housing as soon as approval is given by the Ministry of Health to start building. This will be only a start as my Council are negotiating for the purchase of 32 more acres in various parts of Knottingley and Ferrybridge.

They are not proposing to erect any temporary houses, but to go ahead and build permanent houses in standard and well tried materials. It is essential that temporary houses should be allocated to districts that have suffered greatly from bomb damage.

This Urban Area is served with water in bulk from Pontefract Corporation and it is only in one very small area in the district, Holmfild, that town's water is not supplied. These few houses have their own unsatisfactory well supply and an early supply of town water will be laid on.

This area, Holmfild, is also not sewered and along with Cattle Laiths area, Headlands area and part of Goole Road will need early consideration for proper sewerage. These will have the early consideration of my Council.

My Council have now under consideration additional playing fields in the district and hope to provide additional facilities in this respect for Ferrybridge area as well as Knottingley area in the near future.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

My Council, along with adjoining Authorities, have formed themselves into a group called the West Riding (Eastern Districts) Joint Town Planning Committee. This Committee is appointing a Town Planning Officer.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Only houses scheduled for clearance and those not on town's water supply are without water closets.

SCAVENGING.

There is a good weekly collection of scavenging, but tipping is only partly controlled. Control tipping or incineration must be a thing of the future.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the Urban area, but most councillors view this provision as necessary and no doubt will have favourable consideration in a short time ahead.

MILK SUPPLY.

The producers of milk are less than before the war, but the standard remains good, with very few complaints.

Yours faithfully,

G. J. LAVERICK.

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

